

All Things Wait on the Maine Report

REPORT

Of the Board of Inquiry is not Yet Ready.

MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK

Is About as Soon as it Can be Given Out.

ALL THINGS WAIT ON IT

Captain Sampson Talks to a Newspaper Man, but Doesn't Say Anything--Vesuvius' Arrival.

Key West, Fla., March 18.—The court of inquiry is diligently continuing its sessions on board the battleship Iowa, and, judging from statements made by members, it is quite probable that many more days will pass before the public learns its conclusions.

By the courtesy of Rear Admiral Sigsbee, the correspondent of the Associated Press was today enabled to escape the rigor of the recent rule, forbidding correspondents to go on board warships, and was the first civilian to interview the members of the court of inquiry since they secreted themselves on Wednesday on the Iowa.

Captain Sampson received the correspondent on the poop. In the admiral's cabin below was Captain Chadwick, Lieutenant Commander Potter and Judge Advocate Marx. They had been in session since 10 o'clock this morning, with the ship's writer acting as clerk.

"The court is still hard at work," he said. "I have just left my conference. It is utterly impossible to say when our report will be ready. If I surmised the date and you reported it, I am afraid that something might occur that would defeat the expectation and only serve to disappoint the anxious public. When the report is ready it will not be for us to make the announcement. Washington, I presume, will do that."

If a preliminary report had already been sent to Washington, Captain Sampson apparently knew nothing of it.

In the course of the afternoon, while the court continued in session without once coming out of its room, large quantities of ammunition were taken on board. The same thing took place on the New York. Both ships are now better supplied with ammunition than they have been at any time before.

At 4 o'clock this afternoon, the regular hour during previous sessions of the court for adjournment, Captain Chadwick and Lieutenant Potter entered a gig and were rowed to the New York. Judge Advocate Marx is staying on board the Iowa. The court will resume its sessions tomorrow.

Unusual precautions are observed on the New York and the Iowa. Double harbor watches being enforced. Every craft that passes on its way into the harbor is submitted to the closest scrutiny of searchlights. Both vessels are ready to pull out at fifteen minutes notice, and special attention is being given to the instruction of the sailors in small arms and firing practice.

Tomorrow, the court will devote considerable time to the preparation of diagrams showing parts of the Maine as found after the explosion.

Madrid, March 18.—It is understood that the report of the Spanish naval court upon the Maine disaster will not be delivered until the American report is published.

MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK

Is About as Early as the Report Can be Expected.

Washington, March 18.—An air of suspense was noticeable in the navy department today, due to the approach of the time for the delivery of the report of the court of inquiry. It is not known just when the document will come to Washington, and in view of the reports of the determination of outside parties to obtain possession of it before the department receives the report, the officials, if they know, will not say how the papers are to be brought to Washington.

That is known definitely is that the president has suggested that the report be made as soon as possible, and in consequence it is expected to reach this city in the course of two or three days. The cabinet today talked over the matter, and the time stated was the general opinion of the members when they heard all that Secretary Long had to report on the subject. There is an impression that Lieutenant Commander Marx will bring the document, though it is within Admiral Sigsbee's power to choose any officer.

A cabinet officer expressed the belief that the report will require careful consideration on the part of the president and his cabinet before being given to the public, which would seem to postpone publication to some time about the middle of next week, although nothing is certain on that point.

The report that the Vesuvius had been sighted early in the day coming through the Virginia capes, headed for Washington, gave rise to the rumor that she was bringing the report of the naval board of inquiry to Washington. This, however, could not be confirmed from any official source.

At the navy department it was admitted that the Vesuvius was bound for Washington, but it was explained that she was coming merely for repairs to her armament, and it was denied that she had on board any member of the naval board or that she was carrying the report of that body.

The Vesuvius did not reach Washington tonight, but it was reported at the navy

THIS IS VERY RICH

Spanish Ambassador's Way to Get Even.

IF WAR SHOULD COME

Let Spain Incite Revolt in the Southern States.

Vienna, March 18.—The Neue Freie publishes an interview with a Spanish statesman, evidently the Marquis de Hoyos, the Spanish ambassador, who is represented as saying:

"Spain would rather have war with the United States than pay compensation for the Maine, for by the latter course she would forfeit her honor through an admission of guilt, which would erase her name from the list of civilized nations."

"It could not be England's intention to see the Spaniards expelled from Cuba, as there might arise at Washington an inclination to declare Canada's independence. If during a war the United States should incite the Philippines to revolt Spain could revenge herself by raising revolts in the American southern states."

The other feature of the interview virtually repeats the statements attributed to Senor Caprazano Del Maso, Spanish ambassador to Italy, in the recent interview with him, published in the Rome Tribune.

TRANSFER OF THE AMAZONS

Event in Essential Respects Is Unique in Naval History.

Gravesend, March 18.—The cruiser Amazonas, built by the Armstrongs for Brazil and purchased by the United States, was formally transferred from the Brazilian flag to the stars and stripes shortly after 11 o'clock this morning.

The ceremony was simple and dignified, and to the Brazilian officers it was somewhat pathetic. Lieutenant Commander Colwell, United States naval attaché, accompanied by Ensign Roberts, Assistant Engineer Morris and Consul General O'Connor, arrived on board shortly before 11 a. m. The chief officers of the coast guard and a number of customs officers, all in uniform, were already on board. Lieutenant Commander Colwell and his party were received at the gangway by Lieutenant Santos and were escorted to the captain's cabin, where they were received by Commander Correa.

In reply to Lieutenant Commander Colwell's inquiry, Commander Correa said he was ready to transfer the vessel forthwith and Messrs Colwell, Roberts and Morris, and proceeding on deck, gathered near the flagstaff, from which the green flag of Brazil was flying.

Then Lieutenant Commander Colwell, saluting Commander Correa, said: "Captain, I have here a contract of sale, to which you were a witness, whereby this vessel is to be transferred to me in behalf of the United States."

Commander Correa replied, through an interpreter saying: "In handing over the ship, I desire to say that it is done with the sincere friendship of Brazil."

Lieutenant Colwell, saluting, replied: "In behalf of the United States I thank you for this gift."

A Brazilian sailor then brought down Brazil's blue-starred pennant from the top of the mast, carrying it in his teeth.

In the center of a circle of officers of both nations, Lieutenant Commander Colwell then faced the Brazilian flag flying from the cruiser's stern, and, as the officers bared their heads, the flag of Brazil was hoisted down at 11:30 a. m., after which, facing about, with their heads still uncovered, Old Glory was run up the main mast.

Lieutenant Commander Colwell and the Brazilian officers then shook hands. Commander Correa invited the party into the cabin to drink to the ship and the Brazilian captain and his party were then furnished with the supplies.

The Amazonas will remain in charge of Ensign Roberts and Assistant Engineer Morris until the United States cruiser San Francisco arrives here.

Great interest was taken in the ceremony, which is said to be unique in naval history, by which the power transferred a warship to another in the harbor of a third power.

Several American flags were hoisted at Gravesend after the guns and stripes were unfolded over the Amazonas.

The United States cruiser San Francisco arrived here at 3:30 p. m., passing the Amazonas after saluting Tibbetts fort. The hand played "The Star Spangled Banner" with the crew standing at "attention."

Captain Leary said he had a pleasant voyage from Lisbon. Off the Deal he had read dispatches and thought at first that war had been declared.

Commander Howell, who was received by Lieutenant Commander Colwell at the moment the San Francisco reached her moorings, ordered 50 tons of coal for the San Francisco and 30 tons for the Amazonas, which is coaling and is expected to complete the work on Monday, when she will go to Fort Havana to take on ammunition, which is awaiting her there.

Thence the Amazonas sails, presumably for Key West, the San Francisco going to New York. Commander Nazari takes command of the Amazonas and seven other officers of the San Francisco will accompany him. Stokers and some seamen will be shipped here.

SOBRAL HAS BEEN PROMOTED

He Possesses All the Plans of Uncle Sam's Defenses.

New York, March 18.—A special to the Herald from Madrid says:

"It is significant that Senor Sobral, late naval attaché at Washington, who has full plans of all the United States coast defenses, has been appointed on the staff of the admiralty and has had a long conference with the minister of state."

Bethlehem, Pa., March 18.—The Bethlehem Iron company today shipped three five-inch guns, jacks and hoists, to the Washington navy yard.

SITUATION IS WORSE

This is How Spain's Antics Strike Vienna.

AUSTRO-SPANISH COMBINE

If Effected Might Have a Most Amazing Sequel.

London, March 18.—The Vienna correspondent of the Times says:

"The increasing probability of a Hispano-American conflict engenders public attention. Spain's latest representations at Washington are regarded as an indication that the situation has grown worse."

"The Fremdenblatt, expressing this opinion, finds it conceivable that Spain should seek to prevent America perfecting her armaments by a pretense of desiring peace."

WITH AUSTRIA AS ALLY

Sagasta Feels That He Can Safely Relinquish Cuba.

Chicago, March 18.—A special to the Post from Washington says:

"Great significance attaches to the practically agreed upon alliance between Austria and Spain, for the protection of the Spanish throne against internal attack. This alliance has armed Sagasta with the conscious power that he can, with safety to the throne, enter upon and carry into effect negotiations for the relinquishment of Cuba."

And in this fact is to be found the key to the whole situation. The hope of a peaceful ending of the present troubles. This alliance is in reality the most important development which has taken place since the Cuban question assumed an acute form."

New York, March 18.—A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says:

"It is the evident intention of General Blanco to make it appear that an alliance has been formed between Austria and Spain. With or without the sanction of his government, the Austrian consul, Frederick H. Berenda, is lending himself to this idea. La Lucha and El Diario de la Marina continue to comment upon the Austrian gift of 100 centenas to the fund being raised by Havana merchants for the purchase of a warship for Spain."

Havana, March 18.—Visitors to the Colon cemetery find the graves of the dead of the Maine decorated with many flowers, while from the central place of sepulcher waves a long streamer of red and yellow, with the inscription showing that the decoration and flowers were placed there by the sailors of the Austrian warship Donau. "In memory of our unfortunate fellow sailors of the United States ship Maine."

BEST SEA-FIGHTERS OF ALL

Torpedo Boat Destroyers May Yet Win That Distinction.

Washington, March 18.—The navy department by no means has suspended its efforts to obtain possession of desirable warships abroad and in no direction is there visible any relaxation of the steadily pursued purpose of the navy and war departments to provide for the defense of the country against possible hostile attack. The information of the new squadron at Hampton Roads is the latest manifestation of activity in this direction, being the outcome of the designs of the strategic board, which has been sitting almost all day at the navy department for some time past. Another hour and a half of the board which is desired to provide force as soon as possible is that the navy must be reinforced by a number of torpedo boat destroyers, not torpedo boats. These are vessels of about 300 tons displacement and able to keep the sea almost as well as a cruiser. With an enormous speed of 20 knots per hour and an offensive armament of quick-firing guns equal to the average gunboat, it is said that the power of such craft is certainly very great and that perhaps they may prove to be the ideal naval craft. One who is considered an expert in ordnance matters expressed the opinion that two such torpedo boat destroyers might annihilate the biggest battleship in the world if they stood ready to run the risk of being sunk themselves. All that would be necessary for them to do, he said, would be to hold the battleship in sight during the day, when they would be able to do so easily, owing to the high speed, and when darkness had come to attack the battleship from opposite directions simultaneously at full speed with torpedoes. Such considerations as these have influenced the policy of the board to recommend the procurement of as many of these boats as possible and as soon as possible. So far the department has been unable to buy any abroad and while four torpedo boats of the larger class of 30 knots speed, almost equal to the Destroyer, are building in this country, they can not be completed for many months to come.

A representative of one of the largest English torpedo boat firms now in Washington, criticized our government today as having been too narrow-minded in allowing money for such boats.

Senator Hawley of Connecticut called at the navy and war departments this morning with Thomas F. Rowland, whom he introduced to the officials as the builder of the first monitor on the Ericsson plan. He recalled the fact that the vessel was an experimental one and he had to overcome the opposition of naval officials owing to the radical departure from established ideas.

To Connect Ports by Wire.

New York, March 18.—Further plans to make perfect the means of communication between the defenses of New York have been made. Within a day or two it is probable that the contract will be let for laying a large cable of the steel used in the ocean between all of the local fortifications. The plan is to connect all of the forts surrounding New York City with Governor's Island and was one of the matters to which Major General Nelson A. Miles gave his attention on his tour of inspection on Tuesday.

New Rifle to Be Tested.

Des Moines, Ia., March 18.—W. Condit, secretary of the McLean Manufacturing company, left for Washington today, to confer with Secretary of War Alger and General Miles in regard to the new McLean military rifle which will be tested at Springfield, Mass., within a few days.

Fort Riley Troops Enroute.

Memphis, Tenn., March 18.—Batteries B and F, Fourth U. S. artillery, arrived here this morning from Fort Riley. The batteries are made up of two train sections consisting of nine mule cars for horses and baggage, three flat cars for the guns, etc., two tourist cars for the enlisted men and a Pullman sleeper for the officers. Battery F goes to Savannah, Ga., and battery B to New Orleans.

GENERAL FOSTER'S PLAN

Recognize Cuba and See What Spain Will Attempt to Do.

Toledo, O., March 18.—Secretary of the Treasury Charles W. Foster gave a newspaper interview on the Cuban situation, he said:

"The decision for peace or war really lies with Spain. She must accept our intervention in Cuba or she must declare war. Senator Foster's vivid description of the condition of the island and the horrors suffered by its hapless Cuban population delays a decision which justifies the United States in intervening promptly. Now, what shape should our intervention take? I am strongly in favor of doing it by the recognition of the republic of Cuba as a free and independent nation. The United States should not put the burden of the decision upon her by the simple course of recognizing Cuba as independent."

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GOING OUT PACIFYING

Blanco Will Subjugate the Eastern Provinces.

THAT IS, IF HE IS ABLE

Will Try to Capture the Insurgent Government.

SPAIN'S MILITARY FORCE

Figures Showing What Sort of Fight She Can Put Up—One-thirtieth Uncle Sam's Strength.

Madrid, March 18.—It is asserted that, the central and western provinces having been pacified, General Blanco is about starting on extensive operations with eighty battalions and large volunteer forces, to destroy the insurgent power in eastern Cuba. General Blanco will direct his efforts especially to demolishing what is described as "the more or less embryonic organization which has enabled the rebels to maintain the appearance of government."

Madrid, March 18.—The government is exceedingly hopeful of early results from General Blanco's plan of large operations in the east of the island.

WHAT BLANCO CAN COUNT ON

Figures Showing Every Ounce of Spain's Military Strength.

Washington, March 18.—Seventy thousand men is the number of Spanish soldiers who have been killed, wounded and otherwise incapacitated for duty during the present war in Cuba.

These figures have been received in this city recently from reliable sources, and are said to be as nearly authentic as it is possible to obtain them without recourse to the records kept by the Spanish government. From the same source considerable other information bearing upon the military strength of Spain and her dependencies is obtained.

The present force of Spain in Cuba is as follows: Regulars 135,000 men. Of this number it is estimated that 85,000 of them are effective for military purposes. They are distributed through the island as follows: About 25,000 are in the eastern provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Puerto Principe, and the remainder are in the provinces of Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. There are about 20,000 men in what is known as the volunteer army. These are mostly in the province of Havana and are largely in the nature of home guards, corresponding to our state militia. There are 55,000 men who are not effective for military duty from various causes.

The strength of the Spanish army at home and including her near-by possessions is 150,000 men, which in times of demand for additional soldiers may be increased as follows: First reserves 50,000; second reserves 150,000 men, all of whom are instructed in military tactics, and a second reserve, all of whom are not instructed, of 30,000 men, making in all a grand total of 300,000 men. Since these figures were received here, recent drafts of 15,000 men to strengthen the army in Cuba have only 55,000 men of Spain's regular army now in the peninsula, the Balearic Islands, the Spanish possessions in North Africa and the Canary Islands.

In the Philippine Islands Spain has an army of 23,000 men, which include about 15,000 native troops. Several regiments of the latter were disbanded during the time of the late insurrection in the islands and in time of war, it is said, they are of very little use to the Spanish government.

In Porto Rico there are 5,000 Spanish troops, which in the event of hostilities, could be supplemented by 4,000 volunteers.

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HE CALLS IT HELLISH

And Says Nobody Could Overstate It.

GALLINGER WILL SIGN

In Blank and Whoever Will May Write the Story.

Washington, March 18.—Senator Gallinger was at the Capitol today for the first time since his return from Cuba. When requested to make a statement as to the condition of affairs on that island, he responded:

"You can sign my name to any picture you may draw of utter wretchedness, destitution and hellishness in that country. The condition of affairs is simply indescribable. I do not believe that anyone who simply reads the accounts and does not see for himself can form an adequate idea of the situation."

"The reconcentrados are wedged into all available places in those cities and are perishing by the thousands for want of the commonest necessities of life. The best information obtainable leads to the conclusion that there have been beyond a doubt 60,000 deaths as a result of Spain's brutal policy and the tragedy goes on from day to day. The society of the Red Cross is furnishing some relief by its efforts, but the most of the people are beyond the reach of aid, either through medicine or food."

"I saw nothing which impressed me with the idea that Spain knows much about modern warfare. The soldiers I saw are not drilled as our soldiers are. The drills that I witnessed were a travesty on modern military ideas. From my observation I should not consider them very formidable antagonists on the field of battle."

"So far as I could ascertain from my conversation with Americans and with those not entirely under the influence of the Spaniards, the opinion was universal that the Maine had been destroyed by an external agency and almost every person with whom I discussed the subject in Cuba expects that the findings of the American court of inquiry will substantiate this view."

"There is a divergence of opinion on the island as to the probabilities of war between Spain and the United States and I am sure that I am within the bounds of the truth when I say that almost the entire native population was welcome any turn of events, however tragic, that would wrest Cuba from Spanish dominion. This is true, not only of those who are avowedly favorable to a war for independence but many of those who are ranked as Spanish sympathizers but who are at heart advocates of Cuban independence. The fact is that even in Havana the allegiance to Spain is of a very weak and doubtful character and if war should come it would be found that there would be an uprising in that city against the mother country, which would be a most important factor in shortening the contest and deciding it against Spain."

FORTIFYING AT SAN DIEGO

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